

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3-6, 10-16, 20-28 and 32-34 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 3-6, 10-16, 20-28 and 32-34 showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Sub 10/1
1. (Twice Amended) An illuminator for illuminating an object with a luminous flux emitted from a light source, said illuminator comprising:

an illumination system through which the luminous flux is projected onto the object, said illumination system having a surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

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3. (Twice Amended) An illuminator for illuminating an object with a luminous flux emitted from a light source, said illuminator comprising:

an illumination system through which the luminous flux is projected onto the object, said illumination system including a plurality of optical elements and a barrel for supporting said plurality of optical elements, said barrel having an inside surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

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4. (Twice Amended) An illuminator according to claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the luminous flux comprises ultraviolet light, and said titanium oxide film prevents a contaminant from adhering to and contaminating the portion of the surface of the unit provided with said titanium oxide film due to a photoconductive function caused by absorption of the ultraviolet light.

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5. (Amended) An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said unit comprises at least a diaphragm.

6. (Amended) An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein said unit comprises at least a lens.

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10. (Twice Amended) An illuminator according to claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein said titanium oxide film has a thickness ranging from 10 nm to 100 nm.

11. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus for exposing a wafer with a pattern formed on a mask, said exposure apparatus comprising:

an illumination system for illuminating the mask with light from a light source,

said illumination system having a surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

12. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus for exposing a wafer with a pattern formed on a mask, said exposure apparatus comprising:

an illumination system for illuminating the mask with light from a light source,

said illuminating system having a plurality of optical units, at least one of said plurality of optical units having a surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

13. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus for exposing a wafer with a pattern formed on a mask, said exposure apparatus comprising:

an illuminating system for illuminating the mask with light from a light source,

said illuminating system including a plurality of optical elements and a barrel for supporting said plurality of optical elements,

said barrel having an inside surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

14. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus according to claims 11, 12, or 13, wherein the luminous flux comprises ultraviolet light, and said titanium oxide film prevents a

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contaminant from adhering to and contaminating the portion of the surface of the unit provided with said titanium oxide film due to a photoconductive function caused by absorption of the ultraviolet light.

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15. (Amended) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said illumination system comprises at least one of a diaphragm, a shutter, and a lens barrel.

16. (Amended) An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a lens.

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20. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus according to claims 11, 12, or 13, wherein exposure is performed while the pattern on the mask is scanned synchronously with the wafer.

21. (Twice Amended) An exposure apparatus according to claims 11, 12, or 13, wherein said titanium oxide film has a thickness ranging from 10 nm to 100 nm.

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22. (Three Times Amended) A method for fabricating a device by using an exposure apparatus according to any one of Claims 11 to 21, said method comprising the steps of:

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exposing a wafer with a pattern of a mask by using said exposure apparatus; and
developing the exposed wafer.

23. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner for illuminating a pattern formed on a mask with a luminous flux and projecting the pattern onto a wafer, said projection aligner comprising:

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an illumination system through which the luminous flux is passed; and

a projection system for projecting the pattern onto the wafer,

wherein at least one of said illumination system and said projection system has a surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

24. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner for illuminating a pattern formed on a mask with a luminous flux and projecting the pattern onto the wafer, said projection aligner comprising:

an illumination system through which the luminous flux is passed, said illumination system including a plurality of optical units; and

a projection system for projecting the pattern onto the wafer, said projection system including a plurality of optical units,

wherein at least one of said plurality of optical units of at least one of said illumination system and said projection system has a surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

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25. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner for illuminating a pattern formed on a mask with a luminous flux and projecting the pattern onto a wafer, said projection aligner comprising:

an illumination system through which the luminous flux is passed, said illumination system including a plurality of optical elements and a barrel for supporting said plurality of optical elements; and

a projection system for projecting the pattern onto the wafer, said projection optical system including a plurality of optical elements and a barrel for supporting the plurality of optical elements,

wherein at least one of the barrels of said illumination system and said projection system has an inside surface on at least a portion of which a titanium oxide film is provided.

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26. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner according to claims 23, 24, or 25, wherein the luminous flux comprises ultraviolet light, and said titanium oxide film prevents a contaminant from adhering to and contaminating the portion of the surface of the unit provided with said titanium oxide film due to a photoconductive function caused by absorption of said ultraviolet light.

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27. (Amended) A projection aligner according to claim 23, wherein said unit comprises at least a diaphragm.

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28. (Amended) A projection aligner according to claim 24, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a lens.

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32. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner according to claims 23, 24, or 25, wherein illumination and projection are performed while the mask and the wafer are synchronously scanned at a velocity ratio based on imaging magnification of said projection optical system.

33. (Twice Amended) A projection aligner according to claims 23, 24, or 25, wherein said titanium oxide film has a thickness ranging from 10 nm to 100 nm.

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34. (Twice Amended) A method for fabricating a device,
said method comprising the steps of:

exposing a wafer with a pattern of a mask by using the
projection aligner according to any one of claims 23 to 33; and
developing the exposed wafer.

Please add new Claims 35-56 as follows:

--35. An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said
unit comprises at least a shutter.

36. An illuminator according to claim 1, wherein said
unit comprises at least a lens barrel.

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37. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2,
wherein said unit comprises at least a mirror.

38. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2,
wherein said unit comprises at least a prism.

39. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2,
wherein said unit comprises at least a filter.

40. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein said unit comprises at least a diffuser.

41. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein said unit comprises at least a diffraction optical element.

42. An illuminator according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein said unit comprises at least an optical integrator.

43. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a mirror.

44. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a prism.

45. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a filter.

46. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a diffuser.

47. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a diffraction optical element.

48. An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical unit comprises at least an optical integrator.

49. A projection aligner according to claim 23, wherein said unit comprises at least a shutter.

50. A projection aligner according to claim 23, wherein said unit comprises at least a lens barrel.

51. A projection aligner according to claim 24, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a mirror.

52. A projection aligner according to claim 24, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a prism.

53. A projection aligner according to claim 24, wherein said optical unit comprises at least a filter.